

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A flexible, reclosable package comprising:
 - 2 (a) first and second panel sections secured together and defining an interior;
 - 3 (b) a zipper closure sealed to each of first and second panel sections along a top edge and extending from a first side edge to a second side edge, the zipper closure comprising first and second mating profiles;
 - 4 (c) a slider device constructed and arranged for mounting on the zipper closure and for interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first mating profile from the second mating profile when the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction; the slider device being operably mounted on the zipper closure; and
 - 5 (d) a first tamper-evident structure encasing at least a portion of the zipper closure and extending from the second side edge to an abutment, the abutment positioned between the slider device and the second side edge.
- 6 2. The package according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - 7 (a) a second tamper evident-structure positioned between the zipper closure and the interior, the second tamper evident-structure extending from the first panel section to the second panel section.
- 8 3. The package according to claim 2, wherein:
 - 9 (a) the second tamper evident-structure is an extension of web material between the first and second mating profiles.
- 10 4. The package according to claim 1, wherein:
 - 11 (a) the first tamper evident-structure extends at least 80% of the distance between the first side edge and the second side edge.
- 12 5. The package according to claim 4, wherein:

2 (a) the first tamper evident-structure extends at least 90% of the distance
3 between the first side edge and the second side edge.

1 6. The package according to claim 1, wherein:

2 (a) the abutment is spaced no greater than 1 cm from the slider device.

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1 7.

~~The package according to claim 1, further comprising:~~

2 (a) ~~an area of weakness.~~

1 8. The package according to claim 7, wherein:

2 (a) the area of weakness is a perforation line.

1 9. The package according to claim 7, wherein:

2 (a) the area of weakness is present in the first tamper-evident structure and
3 extends along the first tamper evident-structure below the zipper closure.

1 10. The package according to claim 1, wherein:

2 (a) positioned at the first side edge is a first slider stop area and at the second
3 side edge is a second slider stop area.

1 11. The package according to claim 10, wherein:

2 (a) the first slider stop area is a first crush area, and the second slider stop
3 area is a second crush area.

1 12. A method of using a flexible package, the flexible package comprising a
2 package body defining an interior; a zipper closure comprising a first mating profile and
3 a second mating profile extending along a first edge of the package body, the zipper
4 closure providing access to the interior; a slider device operably mounted on the zipper
5 closure, the slider device interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating
6 profile when the slider device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first
7 mating profile from the second mating profile with the slider device is moved in a

8 second opposite direction, and a tamper-evident structure at least partially encasing the
9 zipper closure; the method comprising:

- 10 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure from the flexible package; and
11 (b) moving the slider device in a first direction to disengage the first and
12 second mating profiles, thereby providing access to the package interior.

1 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of removing the tamper-
2 evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

- 3 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at an area of weakness.

1 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the step of removing the tamper-
2 evident structure at an area of weakness comprises:

- 3 (a) removing the tamper-evident structure at a perforation line.

1 15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of removing the tamper-
2 evident structure from the flexible package comprises:

- 3 (a) removing the tamper evident-structure from the flexible package below
4 the zipper closure.

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1 16. A method of making a package comprising a package body defining an interior;
2 a zipper closure comprising a first mating profile and a second mating profile extending
3 along a first edge of the package body, the zipper closure providing access to the
4 interior; a slider device operably mounted on the zipper closure, the slider device
5 interlocking the first mating profile with the second mating profile when the slider
6 device is moved in a first direction and for disengaging the first mating profile from the
7 second mating profile with the slider device is moved in a second opposite direction,
8 and a tamper-evident structure at least partially encasing the zipper closure; the method
9 comprising:

- 10 (a) providing a package body having an interior surface and defining a
11 package interior;
12 (b) attaching a zipper closure to the interior surface of the package body;

- 13 (c) mounting a slider device onto the zipper closure;
- 14 (d) forming a tamper-evident structure over the zipper closure and the slider
15 device with the package body by:
- 16 (i) sealing the package body above the zipper closure;
- 17 (ii) forming an opening in the tamper-evident structure in which the
18 slider device resides; and
- 19 (iii) providing an area of weakness within the tamper-evident
20 structure.